

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-04 EB-05 INR-09 CIAE-00 SS-07 IGA-02

IO-09 PM-03 DODE-00 /099 W

----- 047831

R 281117 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9294

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5105

AIDAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: RED: GVN ROAD PROPOSAL - ALTERNATE TO DANANG/  
SAVANNAKHET

REF: A. BANGKOK 4505; B. VIENTIANE 2119

1. KONTUM- PAKSE ROAD IS NOT ON OFFICIAL AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION  
SAN CLEMENTE ACCORDING TO GVN VICE MIN ANH OF PLANNING AND  
CONFIRMED BY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS. WHILE WE ASSURED  
KONTUM- PAKSE NOT ON OFFICIAL AGENDA, WE CANNOT BE SURE THAT  
SUBJECT WILL NOT COME UP IN UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS ESPECIALLY IF  
ASIAN HIGHWAY PLAN SUGGESTED AS PART OF INDOCHINA RECONSTRUCTION  
BY EITHER PARTY.

2. SUBJECT ROUTE AS WELL AS DANANG/ SAVANNAKHET ARE PART OF  
ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK ADOPTED BY ASIAN HIGHWAY TRANSPORT  
TECHNICAL BUREAU, ECAFE AS MOST RECENTLY SHOWN ON 1971  
ECAFE MAP. GVN CONTINUES TO SUPPORT KONTUM- PAKSE AS PART  
OF ASIAN HIGHWAY BUT CONSIDERS DANANG/ SAVANNAKHET FIRST PRIORITY  
FOR SUBSTANTIALLY SAME REASONS CITED REFTEL ( A). THEY WOULD NOT  
CONSIDER EITHER ROUTE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OTHER, BUT DESIRE

BOTH TO BE PART OF REGIONAL SYSTEM TO BE DEVELOPED IN ACCORD WITH  
ECAFE PLAN.

3. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GVN MAY WISH EVENTUALLY TO  
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SUBSTITUTE FOR KONTUM- PAKSE A ROAD CONNECTING PLEIKU- STUNG TRENG TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE DAM AND ROUTE FOR A POWER LINE TO QUI NHON, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF EARLY ACTION OR STUDY. ROUTE 9 STILL CONSIDERED FIRST PRIORITY BY GVN FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS.

4. FROM STANDPOINT GVN PRIORITIES AND LIMITED RESOURCES, THERE IS LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY OF EITHER ROAD AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, USAID RECOGNIZES THAT EVALUATION MUST ALSO CONSIDER INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION, REGIONAL NEEDS AND LONGER TERM EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTING ECAFE PLAN. AS REGARDS EARLY FEASIBILITY STUDY, IT NOT CLEAR THAT STRATEGIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL ( A) FOR SURVEYS OF KONTUM- PAKSE DO NOT EQUALLY APPLY DANANG- SAVANNAKHET SINCE BOTH CROSS HO CHI MINH TRAIL. SUGGEST THAT THERE ARE AMPLE ECONOMIC REASONS TO FAVOR DANANG- SAVANNAKHET OVER KONTUM- PAKSE IN ANY CASE, BUT CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND INCREASE OF TRAFFIC TO SOME MINIMUM LEVEL CONSIDERED PREREQUISITE TO FURTHER STUDY, AS CONCLUDED IN DMJM- BERGER REPORT OF DECMEBER 1972 FOR COORCOM. BUNKER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**To:** AID  
BANGKOK  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
VIENTIANE  
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